

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/601,150
Reply to Office Action dated March 7, 2006

PATENT
450101-02197

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An information providing apparatus comprising:

~~input means input with image data representing a plurality of image in time series from one of a plurality of image data sources;~~

image generation means for generating a plurality of images which are sequential and arranged spirally, based on ~~the~~input image data input, and for generating the plurality of images such that an image at a second time point is larger than an image at a first time point, among the plurality of images which are sequential and arranged spirally;

image display means for displaying the plurality of images generated, independent of ~~the~~an image data source;

focus setting means for setting a focus on an image positioned at an area surrounded by a frame, among the plurality of images displayed,

wherein said image is enlarged until an image becomes equal to or larger than a predetermined value which renders the image gradually transparent in view of said plurality of images displayed; and

selection means for selecting an image set by the focus setting means, independent of the image data source;

wherein the plurality of images are index images which are respectively selected from scenes of one program, and the image display means displays the program of the selected index image[.].

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~~wherein one or more of the images are modified relative to the image set
by the focus setting means.~~

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first point is a future time point with respect to the second time point, and the image generation means makes the image display means display the plurality of images such that the image at the first time point is situated in a more inner circumferential side of a spiral constructed by the plurality of images than the image at the second time point, among the plurality of images arranged spirally.
3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image generation means makes the image display means display the plurality of images such that the image at the first time point is displayed more faded than the image at the second time point, among the plurality of images arranged spirally.
4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image generation means makes a frame having a predetermined size be displayed at a predetermined position on the image display means, and moves the plurality of images spirally displayed, with respect to the frame, in response to input operation of an operation input.
5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the image generation means moves the plurality of images arranged spirally, in a radial direction of a spiral constructed by the plurality of images.

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6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the image generation means moves the plurality of image spirally arranged, in a substantially circumferential direction of a spiral constructed by the plurality of images.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image display means generates a background image which radially spreads from a center of a spiral constructed by the plurality of images, and makes the image display means display the background image.

10. (Currently Amended) An information providing method comprising:
~~an input step of being input with image data representing a plurality of image in time series from one of a plurality of image data sources;~~
an image generation step of generating a plurality of images which are sequential and arranged spirally, based on the input image data input, and of generating the plurality of images such that an image at a second time point is larger than an image at a first time point; ~~among the plurality of images which are sequential and arranged spirally;~~
an image display step of displaying the plurality of images generated, on image display means, independent of the an image data source;

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a focus setting step of setting a focus on an image positioned at an area surrounded by a frame, among the plurality of images displayed,

enlarging said image until the image becomes equal to or larger than a predetermined value which renders the image gradually transparent in view of said plurality of images displayed; and

a selection step of selecting an image set by the focus setting means, independent of the image data source;

wherein the plurality of images are index images which are respectively selected from scenes of one program, and the image display means displays the program of the selected index image[.].

~~wherein one or more of the images are modified relative to the image set by the focus setting means.~~

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the first point is a future time point with respect to the second time point, and in the image generation step, the plurality of images are displayed such that the image at the first time point is situated in a more inner circumferential side of a spiral constructed by the plurality of images than the image at the second time point, among the plurality of images arranged spirally.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein in the image generation step, the plurality of images are displayed such that the image at the first time

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point is displayed more faded than the image at the second time point, among the plurality of images arranged spirally.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the image generation step includes a display step of generating a frame having a predetermined size and of displaying the frame at a predetermined position on the image display means, and a movement step of moving the plurality of images spirally arranged, with respect to the frame, in response to input operation of an operation input.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein in the image generation step, the plurality of images arranged spirally are moved in a radial direction of a spiral constructed by the plurality of images.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein in the image generation step, the plurality of image spirally arranged are moved in a substantially circumferential direction of a spiral constructed by the plurality of images.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

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18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the image generation step includes a background image generation step of generating a background image which radially spreads from a center of a spiral constructed by the plurality of images.